

MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (ACANC)
REMEMBER AND EXPLORE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

September 6, 2017

1. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER'S REMARKS: Ms. Renea Yates, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), opened the Remember and Explore subcommittee meeting. Ms. Yates noted that present in person were Major Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner and Mr. Timothy Keating, Alternate Designated Federal Officer, ACANC. Ms. Yates stated for the record that the subcommittee meeting is pursuant to the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified in 10 U.S.C. § 4723. The subcommittee operates under authority and provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and 41 Code of Federal Regulation 102-3.50(d). The DFO, nominated by ANC Executive Director and appointed by the Secretary of the Army, is provided by ANC. Additionally, ANC provides administrative support to the subcommittee.

Ms. Yates reminded subcommittee members not to conduct any formal business by deliberating on any substantive matters which are before the Committee as a whole for vote. Additionally, the subcommittee will report to the Committee any recommendations or information relevant as a result of the day's work. She also noted that the meeting was open to the public and reminded the attending public that they were not allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under discussion by the subcommittee without permission of the Chair. She noted that any member of the public was eligible to file a written statement with the subcommittee in accordance with the published Federal Register notice provided in the binder at the entrance of the meeting room. Ms. Yates also noted that the proceedings were being recorded in written form, and that minutes of the meeting will be prepared.

The meeting was called to order at 0900.

2. ROLL CALL: Ms. Yates noted a quorum for the record with the following members in attendance:

Secretary of the Army Nominees: Mr. Mark Farley (Chair), Ms. Rose Duval, Mr. Ronald Fetherson, Ms. Debra Fix, Ms. Elizabeth Harrell, Mr. John Kelly, and Mr. Nick Miller

The following members were not present: Mr. Robert Hess and Ms. Ryan Manion.

3. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS: Mr. Mark Farley, Acting Chairman opened by welcoming all members, thanking them for their service, and sharing his thoughts regarding the extremely important issues before the subcommittee.

4. PRIOR MEETING MINUTES: The DFO announced that the minutes from the May 7, 2018 Remember and Explore Subcommittee meeting were available for review in the strategic documents binders on the meeting tables.

5. ANC MONUMENTS MAINTENANCE: Ms. Rebecca Stevens, ANC Cultural Resource Manager briefed the subcommittee regarding ANC projects to maintain

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monuments within ANC, specifically the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Memorial Amphitheater. She noted the requirement for an assessment of actions having an effect on historic properties be conducted before any restorative works can be undertaken. She briefed that the assessment must consider whether the project has the potential to negatively affect historic properties within the area of potential effects, stipulations and conditions to be followed, and mitigation and treatment measures to be taken to ensure proper preservation in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

She noted the most aggressive problem facing memorial structures, in ANC as well as numerous memorials with the National Capital Region, is organic. A growth known as biofilm is a black discoloration created by the persistent growth of a community of bacteria, fungi and algae preceded by lichen growth. She noted the problem has been undergoing a testing protocol which includes several methods and products to solve the biofilm problem. Trials began in 2014 with a test site on the roof of the Memorial Amphitheater. Efforts include treating surfaces with zinc oxide, quaternary ammonium, wet and dry laser ablation, and even distilled water applied and scrubbed by hand with small brushes. She mentioned that zinc oxide was the most promising chemical to mitigate the problem. While it is easy to apply, reduces dark discoloration quickly and slows the return of the biofilm, zinc oxide leaves a residue which requires six to nine months to fade from the surfaces where applied. She further informed that while very effective, wet or dry laser ablation is very costly at approximately \$280 / square foot of surface area to be cleaned. She also informed the subcommittee other stains caused by iron oxide, copper oxide, calcium carbonate and insects were also being addressed. Although ANC recently met with various experts from local schools, there exists no formal government group organized to study the biofilm problem in-depth.

She then presented an update on preparations for the centennial anniversary of the Memorial Amphitheater in 2020. She noted that over the next several years work will be focused on the restoration of the doors, windows and associated hardware. Features will be restored to the original design, fully operational and completely weather-tight. The project will restore the Amphitheater to its original appearance in the 1920 dedication ceremony. She then presented information on further conservation efforts in ANC. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier biofilm will be treated with distilled water and hand brushed, non-structural / natural cracks will be filled with the same mortar paste that was successfully applied in 2012, clean the Upper Plaza and repoint / reset uneven surface stones, and paint the wrought iron fencing. She reminded the members of the significant challenge to universal access (ADA compliance) and the difficulty with having only one elevator.

Following the presentation, there was discussion about the challenge to developing a product for use against the biofilm challenge without government or academia participation. Concern was noted that ad hoc development of a product could lead to private / pirated gain unless government laboratories were involved. The Chemical Research and Development Engineering Command (CERDEC) was mentioned as a

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possible organization to consider. Also mentioned were the government labs at Sandia, Livermore and Savannah River.

6. COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT UPDATE: MAJ Shannon Way, ANC Strategic Planner presented the subcommittee with background and an update on the status of commemorative monuments and memorials within ANC. He briefed:

- Memorial Markers. ANC preserves space specifically for memorializing individual service members whose remains are missing, never recovered, scattered, or buried at sea (Public Law 112-154). There are currently 3,189 memorial headstones at ANC for these missing or never returned service members (299 spaces remain for future missing or lost).

- Group Markers. There are hundreds of group burial markers at Arlington National Cemetery, ranging in size. However, it is important not to confuse a group burial with that of an Unknown. In a group burial, the individuals are known, but because of the circumstances of their deaths, they are individually unidentifiable. When this occurs, the DoD directs that all remains be interred together and a headstone be erected with each person's name and other data engraved upon it.

- Memorial Arboretum. Arlington has few commemorative works that do not memorialize the individual service member. In total, there are 164 commemorative works, 143 being commemorative tree monuments. Due to the dwindling capacity of the cemetery, these works have been more closely regulated in recent times – and only four have been placed within the last quarter of a century.

Further, MAJ Way refreshed the subcommittee that except for a monument containing or marking remains, no monument may be placed except if the following criteria are met:

- The monument commemorates an individual, or individuals, whose memory is to be honored or a particular military event that occurred more than 25 years in the past
- The monument can be placed in an area not suitable for burial and the Commission of Fine Arts must be consulted regarding the design.
- A non-governmental entity pays for 100% of costs and provides rationale for placement at ANC
- SecArmy must notify Congressional Oversight Committees (if approved) and must allow 60 days (for Congressional disapproval) before placement

Additionally, requests to place a commemorative monument within ANC must contain:

- A clear articulation of the purpose of the monument
- A copy of the independent study required by law
- A copy of the architectural drawings
- Verification that the placement date is no less than 25 years following the last day of the service commemorated, and
- Indication that the construction, placement, and all supporting activities for the installation of the monument will be paid for and sustained in perpetuity from the

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sponsoring organization's privately-sourced funds. Certification of funds must be included.

Discussion. Members queried how funds would be provided for a commemorative monument and how those funds are accessed by ANC. The DFO explained that ANC does not accept any funds for this purpose. The sponsoring organization must provide a point of contact who is responsible for providing funding for care and maintenance.

The status of all commemorative works proposals to ANC was then presented noting one congressionally sponsored proposal through NDAA 2019, the Freedman's Village Commemorative Monument was being considered. Additionally, there are currently 13 proposals which require further action by the sponsoring organizations and one proposal pending action by ANC, the USS Thresher Commemorative Monument.

While the decision to recommend approval or disapproval by ANC had not been announced, the USS Thresher proposal includes:

- A clear articulation of the purpose of the monument
- A copy of the independent study required by law
- Architectural drawings, however, clearer copies are required
- Verification that the placement date is no less than 25 years following the last day of the service commemorated
- Indication that the construction, placement, and all supporting activities for the installation of the monument will be paid for and sustained in perpetuity from the sponsoring organization's privately-sourced funds. However, certification of funds must yet be provided.

At the conclusion of the briefing the Chair recognized Mr. Tom Wiley, a member of the sponsoring organization, who presented a brief history of the circumstances for a commemorative monument proposal. Mr. Wiley's presentation is appended at TAB A.

The subcommittee briefly discussed the proposal and agreed to postpone voting on a recommendation to the full committee pending confirmation of architectural drawings and certification of funds for future care / upkeep of the monument.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED. The Chair then called for any other business. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made and seconded. All members voted in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 1030.


MARK FARLEY
Acting Chairman